GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:187
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT COAL COMPANIES.
Mahto Shri Tek Lal

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water level has gone down in various coal mining areas in the country due to coal mining activities that has affected the supply of drinking water to the people in those areas ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the coal companies of the Union Government have taken any steps as a part of their corporate social responsibility to provide this facility to the affected people;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS MENTIONED IN THE REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 187 FOR ANSWER ON 28.11.2007 ASKED BY SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO REGARDING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT COAL COMPANIES.

(a) & (b) During the course of mining the water table in and around a coal mine gets affected but the same gets recharged during the monsoon period and as a result the drinking water sources in such areas are not adversely affected. Various studies conducted for assessing the impact of mining on water levels revealed that underground mining operations do not affect the top water table from where normally the local people draw the water. The studies also proved that impact of opencast mining on ground water level is only a temporary phenomenon.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under community and peripheral development activities of national coal companies, provision of drinking water to the local people is one of the prime activities. This is being done by means of installation of hand pumps, tube wells and through pipelines/mobile tankers etc.. Further, water pumped out from the mines is being treated in water treatment plants and supplied for use of local population wherever it is feasible.

Apart from the above, recharging of ground water table is being facilitated through large scale plantation in the overburden dumps, colonies, sites of rehabilitation and adjoining villages. Construction of check dams along the course of water streams is also being done for harvesting rain water.

(e) Does not arise in view of the answer to the point (c) above.